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Open House on July 16 to Discuss Ozone Issues in San Juan County

(Farmington, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Air Quality Bureau (AQB) will hold an open house/public meeting to discuss ozone pollution and the Department's cooperative plans to combat it on Wednesday, July 16, 2003 at the Farmington Civic Center, Exhibit Hall 2, located at 200 West Arrington in Farmington, New Mexico. The open house will be held from 6:00-7:00 pm, followed by the public meeting from 7:00-9:00 pm.

Over the past several years the AQB has measured high levels of ozone in San Juan County. These findings led to the development of the San Juan County Early Action Compact (EAC).

The EAC offers an opportunity for the local community to determine the most appropriate solutions to air pollution, rather than relying upon state or federal mandates. It allows areas that are close to exceeding air standards for ozone the opportunity to voluntarily take early, proactive action to develop an air quality plan. The EAC is a flexible approach designed to develop and implement air pollution control measures, account for future growth, and plan to achieve and maintain compliance with the 8-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone.

The open house will provide general information on ozone pollution and the EAC. The focus of the public meeting will be the current photochemical modeling analysis that is being conducted for San Juan County as part of the EAC. The modeling contractor will provide a presentation covering the meteorological conditions that favor formation of ozone, the unique considerations of the area, and how the modeling analysis will proceed. There will also be a brief presentation on how the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed the NAAQS for ozone. The contractor, as well as the AQB, will be available for questions regarding the modeling analysis.

For more information on the open house and public meeting, please contact Mary Uhl, Planning and Policy Section Manager, NMED Air Quality Bureau, at (505) 955-8086 or Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Director at (505) 827-0314.

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